

Other Subjects

19 "AMERICANA" FINE ART PORTRAITS OF KIDDOS, ADULTS AND PETS • INCLUDING OUR WEDDING PORTRAIT, ONE OF THE BLESSED MOTHER, AN EARLY SELF-PORTRAIT, PLUS MANY OF MY SIBLINGS' BELOVED PETS, AND MORE



FAMILY AND FRIENDS • INCLUDING OUR WEDDING PORTRAIT

Austin at Play ~ 11.2010

Our middle son Kevin gave us our grandson Austin Lee in November, 2008. The first boy on the grand-kiddo scene, I pictured him here in this painting as a true child of this era - playing with one of the dozens of toy cell phones that he received for his very first birthday. Mesmerized and completely focused, the toddler almost forgot there was a birthday party going on with dozens of aunts, uncles, his cousin Addison and kids of all ages gathered to celebrate with him. I created this portrait of him for his proud pappa Kevin when Austin had just turned two.



Baby Bunny Addition (Easter Portrait) ~ 10.2008

Doug and I were just delighted when God sent our sweet grandbaby Addison Lee to our family - the first of several sweet kiddos we love to spoil. Born to our oldest son Matt and his wife Heidi on March 14, 2007, Our grand-baby Addison Lee Ward, had just turned one and was all dolled up for Easter Sunday that Spring in a butter yellow lace-trimmed frock purchased for her by another grandma, jeweled Mary Jane slippers and fuzzy white bunny ears when they all arrived for dinner. Of course, we had another Easter basket filled with chocolate eggs, bunnies and other goodies for her. Doug added a yellow rubber ducky into her loot - and of all her treasures, it was her constant companion the entire evening!

Bacon, Lettuce @ Tomator (Legendary Jazz Trio) ~ 2.1977

This early artwork celebrated "Bacon, Lettuce and Tomator," a jazz trio made up of Paul West, Gail Clements and Rolf Johnson. I created the painting as a birthday gift for sweet Gail. The trio delighted dozens of music lovers during the 1970s and 1980s in venues all over King County. Specializing in clever lyrics and harmony similar to the then extremely popular Manhattan Transfer ensemble, this popular trio filled a special niche in the local music scene. When my sister and I first discovered them, they were performing at the Terry Avenue Freight House nightclub in a vintage railroad car. Their stage was the platform at the south end of the bar. Every set of eyes in the packed place was glued to these three talented musicians - all of whom could carry a tune very nicely! Remarkable was their age span - Rolf was in his early twenties, Gail in her thirties and Paul, his mid-forties. Over the years, we all became close, socializing together during their off hours. I dated hugely entertaining Paul West for several years and "Songbird" Gail became a lifelong friend to my sister Marilee and me. Sadly, both Paul and Gail passed away in the early 2000. *Highlight* - Charle's Wysocki's "Hotel Slatt's Music Room" inspired this artwork of Paul and Gail rehearsing a song while Rolf waited on the window seat.



Manito Splash Pad (Addison @ Austin) ~ 3.2020

(Also part of the "Spokane Collection • Parks and Gardens") This area of Manito Park between Division and Tekoa off 25th Avenue has always been a playground for children. The folks who brought their youngsters here in 1910 found only two swings constructed of power poles by first Park Superintendent Charles Balzer as there was no money for play equipment at the time. In 1913, Park Superintendent John Duncan upgraded this parcel by planting lawn. For decades, people without children seldom visit this section of the park. Over the years, a wading pool was installed (now demolished), more swings, slides and parallel bars. In 2009, a plan was considered to add a Splash Pad to Manito - a huge challenge as the South Hill was liberally peppered with basaltic rock, often only 6 inches beneath dirt's surface. But the project was completed, as shown in this painting that pictured two of our grandkids Addison (age 8) and grandson Austin (age 7). Both kids visited the Splash Pad in 2015 at different times, but as these two have always been close, I pictured them together in this piece. *Highlight* - In 2001, this was the first playground in Spokane to install play equipment with a ramp and elevated play areas for children in wheelchairs.



Precocious Jared Petras ~ 2.2012

For over a decade, I worked as a senior graphic designer for a company that delivered business-based music to clients all over the world. During most of those years, I shared office space with a co-worker who ended up becoming a marketing assistant, a huge help to me - and a dear friend to me! A few years younger than me, Jennifer Jasper was a true sweetheart and we've stayed friends over the many years even though our lives took us in different directions. When my husband and I married, Jennifer helped me hugely on our wedding day by volunteering to take over as coordinator the day of the event. A whiz at this sort of thing, Jenn was absolutely indispensable! Several years later when Jenn met and married John Petras, I did all of her stationery wedding items - invitations, programs, thank you notes, place cards and everything she needed for her special day. John had a son he brought to the union, but Jennifer and John also had a little boy together. All boy and "a mover and a shaker," this little guy was always on the go! *Highlight* - After coming for lunch one Summer afternoon at our home in Sammamish (yes, lots of photo opportunities!), I painted this portrait of Jared and gave her the original artwork as a very special "milestone" birthday gift.



Patti Simpson Ward

